e) a conjugate of a carrier molecule selected from tetanus toxoid and diphtheria toxoid and a capsular polysaccharide of *Haemophilus influenzae* type B, and

f) an aluminum salt,

wherein tetanus toxoid and diphtheria toxoid are adsorbed onto the aluminum salt before being mixed with the other components and the conjugate is prepared in a phosphate buffer solution before being mixed with the other components.

36. (Twice Amended) A method for conferring protection in a host against disease caused by *Bordetella pertussis, Clostridium tetanii, Corynebacterium diphtheriae, Haemophilus influenzae, Poliovirus* and/or *Hepatitis B virus* comprising administering an effective amount of a multi-component vaccine obtained by the method of claim 27.

37. (Twice Amended) A method of immunizing a human host against disease caused by infection by *Bordetella pertussis, Clostridium tetanii, Corynebacterium diphtheriae, Haemophilus influenzae, Poliovirus*, and/or *Hepatitis B virus*, which method comprises administering to the host an effective amount of a multi-component vaccine obtained by the method of claim 27.

REMARKS

Minor amendments to the claims have been made for clarity.

The claims have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Arminjon *et al.* (AU 708777 or WO 96/37222) in view of Petre *et al.* (WO 93/24148). For the following reasons, the applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claims are drawn to a method of preparing a stabilized multi-component vaccine comprising mixing at least several explicitly recited antigens and an aluminum salt, wherein

i) tetanus toxoid and diphtheria toxoid are adsorbed onto the aluminum salt before being mixed with the other components;

ii) the conjugate is prepared in a phosphate buffer solution before being mixed with the other components;

iii) purified pertussis toxoid is utilized;